The trouble with Tribbles - Microsoft Windows™

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SAPHIRE for Windows has its beginnings as a Microsoft DOS program called IRRAS. With the release of Windows NT and 95, it was evident that these new 32-bit operating systems (OS) were the path forward for future development of SAPHIRE. Consequently, SAPHIRE for Windows was created. But, now consumers have available numerous versions of Windows (see the table below). A quick count of Windows versions will yield a total of 13, not counting all service packs that have been released.

Unfortunately, each of these OSs have unique attributes (and bugs) that make development of software for them a challenge. As a result, SAPHIRE for Windows runs well on the majority of these OSs, does not run at all on a couple, and for some has slight noticeable differences.

SAPHIRE for Windows is 100% 32-bit compiled software. Written in MODULA-2, it is a very efficient analysis package for PRA. As such, SAPHIRE needs a (predominately) 32-bit OS to operate. SAPHIRE *will not operate* under any Windows 3.x version. Further, SAPHIRE *is not* recommended for either Windows 95 version 4.00.950 or Window NT version 3.51.

The developers of SAPHIRE use Windows NT, version 4.00, as the OS development platform. This implies that the most stable way to operate SAPHIRE is by utilizing Windows NT. Also, the majority of the testing for SAPHIRE takes place using Windows NT.

The "consumers" editions of Windows, versions 95, 98, and now Me, will run SAPHIRE. But, these OSs are less stable and handle memory less efficiently than Windows NT. Consequently, operating SAPHIRE on one of these versions may result in minor quirks (primarily in the user interface and graphical editors) when compared to Windows NT. While these quirks get fixed when possible, the majority of the development of SAPHIRE takes place under the NT umbrella.

Version updates of SAPHIRE are released on a regular basis. The user should check the SAPHIRE web site for information on the latest release as needed. While SAPHIRE will function with Windows 95/98/Me (I predominately use Windows 98), the recommended OS of choice with SAPHIRE is Windows NT.

OS version	Incremental version	Released	Notes
Windows 3.x	3.0 3.1 3.11	1990 1992 1994	Not supported for running SAPHIRE for Windows, but will run the IRRAS software.
Windows 95	4.00.950 (original release) 4.00.950 A (service release 1) 4.00.950 B (service release 2) 4.00.950 C (service release 2.5)	1995 1995	SAPHIRE will only operate with service release 1 or higher. It is recommended that users upgrade Windows 95 to a more recent OS.
Windows 98	4.10.1998 (original release) 4.10.2222A (second edition)	1998 1999	SAPHIRE will operate with any Windows 98 versions, but has been tested less than on Windows NT.
Windows Me	4.90.3000	2000	SAPHIRE has not been formally tested under this OS. Not recommended for running IRRAS.
Windows NT	3.51 4.00 (service packs 1 - 6a)	1993	SAPHIRE is developed using Windows NT as the OS of choice.
Windows 2000	5.0.2195	2000	SAPHIRE has not been formally tested under this OS, but preliminary testing has been positive.